

~~SECRET~~

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 11 September 1970

25X1 1. [ ] Les Bush, Finance, called to say that he had checked with Treasury and had been advised that Treasury released a preliminary copy of its views on our retirement package to OMB yesterday and have since signed off on their formal response. OMB should have this in hand today.

25X1 2. [ ] Mrs. McArthur, Appointment Secretary for Senator Charles McC. Mathias (R., Md.), called to say that the Senator would be happy to come out and address one of our training classes and we have tentatively scheduled him to lecture to the Mid-Career Course on 9 October 1970. Then, if his schedule permits, stay on for lunch at the Agency.

25X1 3. [ ] By way of an interim response I advised Mr. Vincent Augliere, Staff Administrator of the Moss Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information, that I had been in touch with our people on his query about Agency involvement in the public safety program in Vietnam and expected that we should be in touch with him further on this Monday. Augliere said this was satisfactory. 25X6

25X1 5. [ ] Called Representative Morris Udall (D., Ariz.) in response to his request relayed to us by the White House and made a date to brief him on [ ] at 1000 on Monday the 14th. 25X1A

~~SECRET~~

JAE

DATE 11 Sep 70

# JAPANESE SEEKING U.S. NUCLEAR DATA

## Defense Chief, Paying Visit, Urges Aid on U-235 for Use in Producing Electricity

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 —

The Japanese defense chief has asked the United States to lift the secrecy surrounding the production of enriched uranium enough to enable Japan and other countries to build a plant to produce fuel for the generation of electric power through nuclear technology.

The proposal, broached by the defense chief, Yasuhiro Nakasone, to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird yesterday and at a news conference today, stressed Japan's interest in peaceful applications of nuclear power and disclaimed any interest in the development of weapons.

Some senior Administration officials are concerned, nonetheless, that if the United States does open the secrets of its gaseous-diffusion process for turning raw uranium into uranium 235, it might make it much easier for Japan if she should ever decide to join the nuclear club.

The same process which enables you to make fuel-grade enriched uranium also enables you to make weapons-grade uranium for thermonuclear weapons," an expert pointed out.

The proposal on nuclear secrets was one of three formally advanced by Mr. Nakasone during his visit with Administration officials. He is in the United States at the invitation of Mr. Laird.

At a news conference at the National Press Club, Mr. Naka-

some briefly discussed his proposals.

One would close or turn over to joint use a large number of the 122 American military bases in Japan. "Even after the merger or disposal of American bases," Mr. Nakasone said, "I am sure that, in any emergency, Japan will continue to support American defense activities by permitting American troops to return to bases they may have given up previously."

Mr. Nakasone third proposal was that the United States upgrade its representation at annual American-Japanese consultative meetings on security problems. He suggested that the Secretaries of State and Defense meet with their Japanese weapons.

counterparts. At present the Japanese Foreign Minister and Defense chief meet with the United States Ambassador to Japan and the commander of American forces in the Pacific.

Diplomatic sources say that during Mr. Nakasone's conference with Mr. Laird yesterday, he said that Japan was considering work next year on an experimental plant to produce enriched uranium by what is known as the gas-centrifuge process, previously confined to the laboratory.

He reportedly told Mr. Laird that such a unilateral effort not only would be costly but also might create suspicion among Japan's neighbors that she was moving toward nuclear

Mr. Nakasone, who is Director General of the Defense Agency said Japan would prefer to move jointly with the United States and such other countries as might be interested to produce enriched uranium through the process pioneered by the United States. He said he was raising the issue as a political leader of the Liberal Democratic party, not as defense chief.

At the press club he said that Canada and Australia might be interested in participating in such a venture, which American and Japanese sources said might cost \$5-billion or more.

"As long as the United States deterrent functions, there is absolutely no possibility of our

choosing to have nuclear weapons of our own," Mr. Nakasone asserted.

Uranium in its natural state contains only about seven-tenths of 1 per cent of U-235. Many countries use natural uranium in their atomic-power plants, but more efficient plants require uranium enriched to the point where it contains 2 to 4 per cent.

The process used permits the production of uranium with as much as 80 per cent U-235, the proportion commonly thought necessary for thermonuclear weapons.

The United States maintains three gaseous-diffusion plants to produce enriched uranium for power plants and weapons.